

## **FISCAL NOTE**

### **SB 1138 - HB 1238**

March 12, 2007

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Authorizes the Ethics Commission to terminate the employment of any employee or non-elected official of the executive branch of state government subject to the jurisdiction of the Ethics Commission if the commission finds that such employee or non-elected official has misused their office for personal financial gain.

#### **ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:**

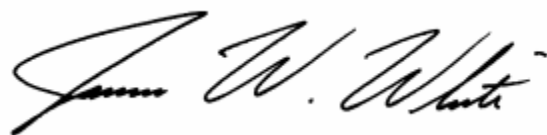
**Increase State Expenditures - \$45,000**

Assumptions:

- This estimate assumes that the Ethics Commission would be granted the power to investigate claims of misuse of office with regard to employees and non-elected officials of the executive branch although this bill nor current law vests the commission with such power.
- State employees with career service status must be terminated, and rights of appeals extended, in accordance with strict mandates of state civil service law. The commission will be required to litigate its evidence accordingly when terminating an executive branch civil service employee.
- Authorizing the Ethics Commission with the jurisdiction to terminate such individuals increases the operating costs of the commission due to the expenditures associated with investigating, adjudicating and handling the appeal of these claims. Such cost is estimated to be at least \$35,000 annually.
- In addition, the printing, copying and storage for the files generated by these investigations are estimated to cost \$10,000 annually.

#### **CERTIFICATION:**

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



James W. White, Executive Director

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